



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/935,152	08/22/2001	Veijo M. Tuoriniemi	2110	9248
28747	7590	11/15/2004	EXAMINER	
VEIJO M. TUORINIEMI 47 WOODLAND AVE. APT 309 SUMMIT, NJ 07901-2169			JOO, JOSHUA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/935,152

Applicant(s)

TUORINIEMI ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua Joo

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2154

1. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: The Summary of the Invention is missing. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 3, 6, 7, 14, and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - i. As per claim 3, the word "computer-assisted" is inconsistent with the rest of the claim. Please change it to "computer assisted" or change the rest to be consistent.
 - ii. As per claim 6, 7, and 14, the formatting of the claims need to be corrected. The claims contain improper spacing.
 - iii. As per claim 17, line 12, the word "in" should be changed to "is" as so the "computer is measured".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. As per claim 13, line 32, it is unclear as to which "client computer" the applicant is referring to. It is assumed that the map is delivered to another client computer, not the first client computer in which the geographic information is derived.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1, 5, 18, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sutcliffe et al, US Patent #6,249,282 (Sutcliffe hereinafter).

8. As per claim 1, Sutcliffe teaches an invention for matching a first user with other users by comparing and matching parameters. Sutcliffe's invention comprises of:

a) Having a geographic location information, at least one demand parameter and a demand area definition parameter derived from a multiplicity of demand client computers. (Col 7, lines 61-63. User requests a search. Col 6, lines 44-49. User enters location information. Col 7, lines 5-19. Search parameters include geographical location. Col 4, line 23. Plurality of users.)

b) Storing said geographic location information, said demand parameters and said demand area definition parameter on a host server. (Col 4, lines 49-52. Server has a user database. Col 5, line 8. User information can be stored on the database.)

c) Having a geographical location information, at least one supply parameter and a supply area definition parameter derived from a multiplicity of supply client

Art Unit: 2154

computers. (Col 4, lines 18-22. System has another user to match the results of the first user. Col 6, lines 44-49. User enters location information. Col 7, lines 5-19. Search parameters include geographical location. Col 4, line 61. Plurality of users.)

d) Storing said geographic location information, said supply parameters and said supply area definition parameter on a host server; (Col 4, lines 49-52. Server has a user database. Col 5, line 8. User information can be stored on the database.)

e) Searching matching supply parameters fulfilling said demand parameter within said demand area and delivering said supply parameters with optional location information, optional additional information and a contact means for each demand client computer by said host server. (Col 4, lines 49-56. Server has a matching system where it matches a first user with another user. Col 6, line 30-67. Search elements include providing a phone number and an address. Col 8, lines 5-6. Search result is provided to the user.)

f) Searching matching demand parameters fulfilling said supply parameter within said supply area and delivering said demand parameters with optional location information optional additional information and a contact means for each supply client computer by said host server. (Col 8, 53-58. The search elements are met by the other user. Col 4, lines 49-56. Server has a matching system where it matches a first user with another user. Col 6, line 30-67. Search elements include providing a phone number and an address. Col 8, lines 5-6. Search result is provided to the user.)

9. As per claim 5, Sutcliffe teaches the invention of claim 1 wherein a user gives said geographic location information. (Col 6, lines 46-49. User provides address, which includes city, state, zip code, and country.)

Art Unit: 2154

10. As per claim 18, Sutcliffe teaches the invention of claim 1 wherein said demand and supply parameters are chosen by a user of a client computer. (Col 7, line 27-30. User can choose the parameters.)

11. As per claim 19, a computer assisted method of claim 1 wherein said demand and supply parameters are constant. (Col 6, lines 5-20. Parameters are constant and must be provided to perform a search.)

12. As per claim 20, a computer assisted method of claim 1 wherein optional additional freestyle information can be given a user of a client computer. (Col 9, lines 6-17. Parameter an include a personal ad having text entered by a user.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe and in view of Chou, US Patent #6,327,533.

15. As per claim 2, Sutcliffe does not teach of a method wherein said geographic location information is constantly changing and derived from a GPS system.

Art Unit: 2154

16. Chou teaches an invention for locating moving objects, where the location information is derived from a GPS system and is constantly moving (Col 4, line 49-51).

17. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sutcliffe's invention with Chou's invention to derive the geographic location information from a GPS system because it improves Sutcliffe's invention by providing mobility to the client by allowing the client to operate in an area where it is not at a fixed area.

18. As per claim 3, Sutcliffe does not teach of a method wherein map coordinates, based on said continuously changing geographic information is calculated on said host server.

19. Chou teaches an invention where GPS data is converted into latitude and longitude (Col 6, lines 20-64).

20. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sutcliffe's invention with Chou's invention to convert the location information into map coordinates because it would improve Sutcliffe's invention by providing a more precise and accurate location of other people, and the coordinates would also allow the location of other people to be displayed on a map.

21. As per claim 4, Sutcliffe does not teach a method wherein said geographic information is continuously changing and derived from Telephone network positioning system.

Art Unit: 2154

22. Chou teaches an invention where the geographic position of the client is changing and is derived from a Telephone network positioning system (Col 4, lines 34-38; Col 4, lines 46-54).

23. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sutcliffe's invention with Chou's invention to derive the location information from a telephone network positioning system because it improves Sutcliffe's invention by providing mobility to the client by allowing the client to operate in an area that is not fixed. It also increases the capability of Sutcliffe's invention by providing more than one method of providing location information.

24. Claims 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe and in view of Gale et al, US Patent #6,487,495 (Gale hereinafter).

25. As per claim 6, Sutcliffe does not teach of a method wherein said geographic location information is given as map coordinates.

26. Gale teaches an invention for specifying physical locations on navigation systems, where the user can enter geographic coordinates such as the latitude and longitude (Col 5, lines 44-55).

27. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Sutcliffe and Gale to allow the user to enter the location information as geographical coordinates because it will improve Sutcliffe's invention by increasing the performance of the invention because map coordinates provide a more reliable location information since physical addresses are

Art Unit: 2154

not always available, and it will also allow mobility for the user since coordinates can be obtained from any position.

28. As per claim 11, Sutcliffe does not teach a method wherein said geographic location information can be given a name and saved for future.

29. Gale teaches an invention where the user proposes a keyword (Col 4, line 42-43), associates a geographic location with the keyword (Col 5, lines 65-68), and saves the keyword (Col 6, lines 5-6).

30. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the inventions of Sutcliffe and Gale to name and save the geographic location information because it would improve Sutcliffe's invention by making it more convenient for the user so that he or she does not always have to enter the location information such as coordinates or street address. It simplifies the process in which the person uses the invention. This also allows the user to retrieve location information from different areas.

31. Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe and in view of Craport et al, US Patent #5,978,747 (Craport hereinafter).

32. As per claim 7, Sutcliffe does not teach of a method wherein said geographic information is given as a postal address and modified as map coordinates by a dedicated program.

33. Craport teaches an invention for identifying the geographic region of a geographic area, where servers convert addresses into map coordinates, where the

Art Unit: 2154

servers are also program modules (Col 12, lines 44-54). The client provides the address (Col 10, lines 16-19).

34. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Sutcliff's invention and include a program to convert addresses into map coordinates because it would improve Sutcliff's invention by providing a more precise and accurate location of the users and the coordinates allow the location to be displayed on a map for more easily locating other users.

35. As per claim 8, Sutcliffe does not teach of a method wherein said given postal address is modified as map coordinates on said host server.

36. Craport teaches a method wherein said given postal address is modified as map coordinates on said host server (Col 12, lines 44-54).

37. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the inventions of Sutcliffe and Craport to modify the postal address into map coordinates because it will improve Sutcliffe's invention by increasing the performance of the invention because map coordinates provide a more accurate location of the individual.

38. As per claims 9 and 10, Sutcliffe does not specifically teach the different type of server for entering the postal address.

39. Craport teaches an invention where the postal address is entered by the map server (Col 12, lines 44-53).

Art Unit: 2154

40. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the different types of servers for entering the postal address as a design choice of the invention.

41. Claims 13-15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe and in view of Obradovich, US Patent #6,525,768.

42. As per claim 13, Sutcliffe does not teach of a method wherein said geographic location information derived from a first client computer, optional additional information and a contact means are delivered for at least one other client computer and said location of said first client computer is pinpointed on a map of client computer.

43. Obradovich teaches of an invention where a third party's location is received and displayed on a map. The location of other users is represented by an icon (Col 11, line 65). The information received may be information of any type. Preference contains phone numbers for automatic callback to the third party (Col 11, line 53- Col 12 line 8).

44. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Sutcliffe and Obradovich to provide contact and location information to other users because it improves the functionality of Sutcliffe's invention by providing a more efficient method of allowing third users to meet and find each other in remote locations.

45. As per claims 14 and 15, Sutcliffe does not specifically teach an invention where the map is provided by host or Internet server.

Art Unit: 2154

46. Obradovich does teach an invention where a computer system linked by the Internet maintains geographical location information of the user (Col 27, lines 17-26). The computer system can serve the request of the user by providing information such as maps (Col 29, lines 25-40).

47. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Sutcliffe and Obradovich for a server to store the maps because it would improve the capability of Sutcliffe's invention by allowing the user to download maps from various locations. Also, by having the some of the maps stored on the server, the user device requires less memory space.

48. As per claim 16, Sutcliffe does not teach the method wherein said map is resident of a client computer.

49. Obradovich teaches an invention where the user can access a map stored on the local memory of the PCD (Col 11, line 34-35). The PCD has a processor and memory (Col 7, lines 59-64).

50. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Sutcliffe and Obradovich for the client's device to store the maps because it allows the user to quickly access maps and also allows the user to access the maps when it cannot contact the server.

51. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe and Obradovich, and in view of Schug, US Patent #6,339,429.

Art Unit: 2154

52. As per claim 12, Sutcliffe does not teach of a method wherein said geographic location of a user client computer distributed to other client computer users can be dimmed.

53. Schug teaches an invention for displaying electronic pictures for hand-held and portable display devices where the display can be configured by the user, which includes changing the brightness (Col 11, lines 44-50).

54. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Sutcliffe and Schug because it would improve the user-friendliness of Sutcliffe's invention by providing the user with more control of the display functions.

55. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe and in view of Rachabathuni et al, US Patent #6,628,938 (Rachabathuni hereinafter).

56. As per claim 17, Sutcliffe does not teach the method wherein said distance of a geographic location information given by a supply client computer and geographic location information given by a demand client computer is measured on a host server and distributed to either or both of the computers.

57. Rachabathuni teaches an invention for determining the distance between two users from a stored geographical location from wireless systems. The application determines the proximity of the users and informs the users (Col 8, lines 31-39).

58. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Sutcliffe and Rachabathuni to

Art Unit: 2154

determine the distance between the two clients because it increases the capability of Sutcliffe's invention by allowing users to contact each other when they are roaming or it allows users to locate other users with similar interest. As Sutcliffe's invention is for searching users with matching interest, Rachabathuni's invention would assist in this process.

Conclusion

59. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ayed, US Patent #6,756,913. Ayed teaches an invention for dispatching taxis, where the server determines the GPS position of the requesting client and taxi and dispatches the taxi according to different methods.

60. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

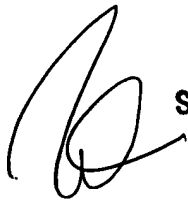
61. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966 and fax number is 571 273-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8 to 5:30.

62. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on 571 272-3964.

Art Unit: 2154

63. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 4, 2004
JJ



JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100